

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 XMB-02 /113 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR:BG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EA/J - SECTON S/S-MR. SEBASTIAN

COMMERCE (BEWT) - ADOWNEY

TREASURY - MSEARING

EB/FSE - GRASE

D - RPOATS

EA - LEDMOND

C - JMONTGOMERY

EUR/SOV - MGARRISON

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R 052042Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, JA, UR

SUBJECT: YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS

REF: (A) TOKYO 10659; (B) STATE 90555 OF APRIL 19, 1975

1. DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT ON SOVIET
AFFAIRS JULY 26-27, WE INFORMED TOGO THAT THE USG HAS NOT
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REPEAT NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE USSR TO EXCHANGE

GOVERNMENTAL NOTES ON YAKUTSK.

2. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO ENTER INTO A TRILATERAL AGREEMENT ON YAKUTSK PARTICIPATION AT THIS TIME.

3. OUR POSITION ON THE YAKUTSK PROJECT (AS STATED IN REFTEL B) REMAINS AS FOLLOWS: THE US GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE AMERICAN FIRMS, ALONG WITH THE JAPANESE AND THE SOVIETS, IN THE EXPLORATORY PHASE OF THE YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS PROJECT, I.E. THE PHASE COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN PARIS LAST MARCH. PARTICIPATION BY US FIRMS IN THIS PHASE DOES NOT, HOWEVER,

COMMIT THE USG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE OR TO APPROVE LNG IMPORTS FROM YAKUTSK INTO THE US.

4. FYI. USG PARTICIPATION IN LATER STAGES OF THE PROJECT WILL DEPEND ON THREE HARD-TO-PREDICT FACTORS: (A) WHETHER THE PROJECT WILL BE CONSONANT WITH OUR OVERALL ENERGY POLICY; (B) WHETHER THE RESTRICTIONS ON EXIM CREDITS CAN BE REMOVED; AND (C) THE FUTURE COURSE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. END FYI.

5. IF THE GOJ CONTINUES TO WISH STRONGLY FOR SOME SORT OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EMBASSY'S IDEA OF A UNILATERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FROM THE GOJ (PARA 6 REFTEL A) WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY TO HANDLE TOGO'S REQUEST. IT COULD CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF US POLICY AS STATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE194517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WEDGAR:BG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760303-0052
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760881/aaaacsxq.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 10659, 76 STATE 90555
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS
TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, JA, UR, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006